



Lake & Pond Management Policy

DRAFT Proposed Amendment to Include Mill Pond

Purpose

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to add Mill Pond to the City's Lake & Pond Management Policy. The policy establishes a system to prioritize the waterbodies for management, define management service levels, and lay out a process to encourage resident involvement.

Inclusion in the policy requires residents to form an association to be eligible for additional elective services. The association members then submit a request for services that is representative of the majority. The City coordinates elective services and special assesses costs back to property owners in the assessment district.

Rationale

Mill Pond was not originally included in the policy; it is quite different than the other lakes and ponds within the City because Minnehaha Creek runs through it. The DNR does not permit chemical treatments in streams and rivers, thus a different management strategy is required. Submerged aquatic vegetation is managed through mechanical removal and, under the policy, is an elective service available to eligible waterbodies with an established association.

An association encourages residents to come to an agreement about the type of management they would like, and for which they will ultimately be financially responsible for. It also allows for a shared management vision to be communicated to the city.

In the policy, lakes and ponds are prioritized based on size, water quality, stakeholder participation, and public use. Mill Pond is 14 acres in size, and thus is categorized as large and Minnehaha Creek is listed on the Impaired Waters List. Mill Pond also has a high amount of public use.

Based on these criteria, the Mill Pond is eligible for a high service level including additional elective services. These additional elective services are coordinated by the City, and associated costs are special assessed back to property owners. An association is required to special assess these costs.

Proposed Policy Amendment

Staff recommends the following amendment to the Lake & Pond Policy;

The Lake & Pond Management Policy is hereby amended to include Mill Pond as follows;

1. Appendix C: Prioritization List is amended to include Mill Pond under the following categories;
 - a. Size: Large (10+ acres)
 - b. Water Quality: 303(d) Impaired Waters List
 - c. Public Access and Use
2. Appendix D: Prioritization Chart is amended to include the points awarded based on criteria from Appendix C, indicating eligibility for service level, 'High.'